

Diocese of El Camino Real
Restorative Justice Commission
restorejustice@edecr.org

THE WELTY FUND

The Restorative Justice Commission of the Diocese of El Camino Real has been asked to receive and review requests for the use of the Welty Fund and to make recommendations to the Bishop, who has the final authorization for the disbursement of funds. This arrangement, under the guidance and direction of the Ecclesiastical Authority, increases shared ministry in our diocese.

The language of the Welty Fund, established in 1923 in the Diocese of California, specifies that it be used *to assist young men and boys being released from reform schools and prisons in California*. According to the Diocesan Administrator, we are bound by this specific legal language until such time as a petition is made to the Attorney General and approval granted for a more inclusive understanding of the intent.

The Welty Fund has been used in the past in the Diocese of El Camino Real in accordance with the spirit and intent of its donor. The funds have been used by Chaplains of penal institutions to immediately help inmates upon release from incarceration. Disbursement was made upon written request by a Chaplain to the financial officer of the Diocese. With transitions in personnel over time, the knowledge of the existence of the Welty Fund has sometimes been obscured. It is important that it continue to be available to those individuals who, upon release from custody, are in real need of financial help. The funds have been used many times to make the critical difference for a person.

The RJC believes that the Chaplains and other members of the diocese, lay and ordained, who are in direct and frequent contact with individuals who qualify for this assistance are the best screeners and determiners of the appropriate use of the funds. Additionally, the number of facilities in the Diocese, as well as their locations scattered all over make it imperative that these funds be accessible to all our clergy serving as Chaplains and in related ministries. It is also necessary, due to the way that jail and prison facilities are run, that the funds be available in an extremely timely manner.

The RJC has developed the following broad guidelines for continued use of the Welty Fund in the Diocese of El Camino Real:

- Diocesan Chaplains and all Diocesan clergy serving in penal facilities in the Diocese will have equal access to the funds.
- Members of the diocese who are regular volunteers in ministries associated with correctional facilities may also make requests
- Diocesan clergy who are not actually serving as Chaplains but who have an association with individuals being released may request use of the funds.
- The funds will continue to be used for specific individual needs arising from the deprivation of incarceration.
- Requests will be made to the Restorative Justice Commission via the request form (see below) which is either mailed, e-mailed, or filled in from a phone conversation

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REQUEST FOR USE OF THE WELTY FUND

Date:

Funds requested by:

Position:

Contact info (phone, e-mail or address):

Reason for request/use of funds:

Amount requested:

Check payable to:

Submit request to: Restorative Justice Commission, c/o Mission House, P.O.
Box 1903, Monterey CA 93942-1903, phone 831-394-4465 or email:
restorejustice@edecr.org

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RJC note: